



PATENT  
Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 04329.2722-00000

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
Hiroshi KUBOTA et al. ) Group Art Unit: 3753  
Application No.: 10/026,566 ) Examiner: Walton, George L.  
Filed: December 27, 2001 ) Confirmation No. 9883  
For: GAS CIRCULATING- )  
PROCESSING APPARATUS )

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

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**REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION**

In reply to the Office Action mailed March 23, 2004, the period of reply extending through July 23, 2004, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application based on the following remarks.

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-20 are pending. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Saito et al. (Japanese Pat. Appln. No. 2001-185544), which the Examiner states was published prior to Applicants' invention.

First, Applicants point out that Japanese Pat. Application No. 2000-299280 of Saito et al. was published as Laid-Open Publication No. 2001-185544 on July 6, 2001. Thus, the publication date of Saito et al. is later than the foreign priority date of the present application of December 28, 2000 of which Applicants claim benefit. Therefore,